Calcoin News

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
California State Numismatic Association

CONTENTS

San Francisco Readies for April	Page 2
Speaking of Conventions	3
East Bay Coin Club 'Coinival'	4
Who's Who in California Numismatics	5
California Club News, Views and Whos	6
Swedish Plate Money	9
That U.S. $1 Bill	11
History of the San Francisco Mint	12
L. A. Convention Facts and Figures	15
From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer	16

Volume 8, Number 1

JANUARY, 1954

San Francisco Readies for April

COMMITTEES NAMED

Committees have been named and are preparing for the 14th semi-annual CSNA convention to be held in San Francisco April 22-25, inclusive. Headquarters will be the Bellevue Hotel, Geary and Taylor Sts.

As focal point of the meeting will be the 100th anniversary of the San Francisco mint, Ross P. Buell, superintendent, invites delegates to tour the mint. Two groups of 25 to 30 persons each will make tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday, April 23. Lesley G. Lodge, John E. Ohls and Paul D. Snedaker will be in charge of the groups. Out-of-towners will be given priority in group assignments.

"We of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society plan to make this the largest and best convention yet held," Lodge says, "one which future host clubs can use as a model and as a target at which to shoot and attempt to equal. Many small refinements are being worked up to assist the visitors and to make their stay more pleasant."

BELLEVUE HOTEL
Geary at Taylor

'GRIPES' CHAIRMAN

In order to profit from past convention experiences, Paul D. Snedaker has been named special assistant to the general chairman, "in charge of gripes". Snedaker will receive comments both on good and bad points of past conventions, that the PCNS may incorporate the former in its planning and eliminate the latter.

Lesley G. Lodge is convention general chairman. Assistant general chairman is John E. Ohls. Ohls also is awards and publicity chairman. R. G. McArthur, CSNA secretary-treasurer, is in charge of registration. PCNS members will assist him.

In charge of other activities are Roy Hill, exhibits; Frank X. Galvin, bourse; Rudy Gjurovich, sergeant-at-arms; Earl A. Parker and Leo Young, auction; Erich Werling, special electrical lighting; David Redfield, numismatic forum.

Ken Allen is in charge of entertainment. Mrs. Eula Jakobsen, Mrs. Betty Duncan and Mrs. Carol Snedaker are the ladies' entertainment committee.

MITCHELL, GALVIN TO EMCEE

Ralph A. Mitchell will be master of ceremonies at the banquet. Frank X. Galvin will emcee the luncheon. All PCNS members will be responsible for reception and welcoming.

Included in the planning is a 12-page program — truly a convention souvenir.

Reservation sheets for hotel accommodations and exhibit space will be mailed to all members. In making hotel reservations, applicants should inform the hotel management that they are to attend the CSNA convention.

Hotel rates are, single, $6 to $7 a day; double, $8 to $9; twin, $9 to $10; suite (bedroom-parlor), $16 to $20.

Applications for exhibit space may be made to Roy Hill, 1140 Sutter St., San Francisco 9, Calif. Bourse space applicants should write to Frank X. Galvin, 1415 Franklin St., Oakland 12, Calif.

Details of the forum, entertainment and other activities will appear in the March **Calcoin News.**

Speaking of Conventions

Here photographed is the Numismatic Convention of Japan held at Osaka, Japan, in May, 1952. This was the first held since 1941, and was a "Ki Nen", or commemorative convention. Hospitality and friendliness were the by-words, and the two U. S. servicemen present occupied the only two chairs in the room at the insistence of the hosts. Alan Craig, author of the recent article, "Coins of Korea", attended.

E. Morita was chairman of the convention. Those wearing ribbons on their lapels were officers. A large number of those present are quite wealthy and renowned in Japan.

The well-known Japanese style of no-shoes-in-house was observed, and the small sticks of wood on the tables were place cards, bearing the names of the displayers. About $30,000 worth of coins was shown by visitors, while Chairman Morita's collection of ancient Chinese currencies keynoted the convention in a separate anteroom. His collection filled the room and about 20 tables 3x10 ft. in size.

While oriental numismatics comprised a larger percentage of the material, there also were fine showings of branches of occidental numismatics. Interestingly enough, the two U. S. servicemen had only oriental coins on display. The great diversification of items included perfect metal dies for a Japanese 50 Sen silver piece bearing the date 1935 (without the collar for the reeding). When there was no more space left on the tables, some laid out displays in the corners of the room. One person had a display fixed to the wall. The room and tables are substantially longer than those shown in the picture.

In the old tradition, several hundred rubbings of each displayer's favorite coin were made and put into scrapbooks, each scrapbook being sent to numismatists far and wide in Japan.

CLUB MOVES

The San Diego Numismatic Society has moved its meeting place to the YMCA, 1115 Eighth Ave. Meeting time remains the first Monday of the month at 8 p.m.

East Bay Coin Club 'Coinival'

The East Bay Coin Club, Oakland, held a noon 'til nine 'coinival' Nov. 15 at the Oakland Boys Club, that Northern California coin collectors might become better acquainted, swap coins, and display their specialties. Present were visitors from the PCNS, Redwood Empire and San Jose clubs.

Afternoon and evening auctions of 160 lots were held, a children's movie being shown during the former. There was a dealers' bourse.

Following a buffet supper, four tip-top vaudeville acts were put on by Oakland Boys Club members.

In all, 157 persons signed the register. About 30 failed to sign.

A. W. Ritchie was general chairman and Gilbert D. Eaton, general manager. Committees were: displays, Erich Werling; entertainment, Frank X. Galvin and Ken Allen; auction, Earl A. Parker (auctioneer), Ed Fogler and Lee Bollinger; refreshments, Thelma Fieberling and Pearl Holm; registration, Don Crossman; publicity, Fred Monteagle; bourse, Galvin, C. R. Godbey, Fogler and Parker; door prizes, Walter Holm and Fogler.

Exhibitors: Ken Allen, Gilbert Eaton, Jack Frost, Rudy Gjurovich, Roy Hill, Pearl and Walter Holm, A. J. K. Jakobsen, F. J. Monteagle, R. C. Patterson, D. J. Redmond, A. W. Ritchie and Erich Werling.

The EBCC plans to make the "coinival" an annual affair.

Due to black marketing, the price of brides in Africa's Uganda territory has been stabilized at five goats, five head of cattle and 20 shillings cash.

MEMBER EARL A. PARKER, right, auctions a coin at the East Bay 'Coinival'. Lending moral support are Mrs. Clifton C. Cole of the Redwood Empire Coin Club, Santa Rosa, and Rudy Gjurovich, self-styled "King of the Coin Collectors", San Jose.

Who's Who In California Numismatics

ERICH WERLING

"To me, all coins are interesting. Large or small, ancient or 20th century, U.S. or foreign, extremely valuable or just plain junk, I collect them all. It is not the value of a coin that attracts me. I want any coin if I do not have it."

These words of Erich Werling, Oakland, give his philosophy of coin collecting. He collects everything numismatic. That is, in metal. He is not particularly interested in paper money, although he does have a representation of it.

Erich was born Feb. 10, 1892, in Baltimore, Md., the son of Gustave and Ulrika Werling. He attended public schools in Baltimore.

He was married March 17, 1920, to Miss Florence E. Fink. To this union one daughter, Martha, now 19, was born.

Werling is employed by the Crescent Electric Co., Oakland, and his principal duties consist of repairing small appliances; making, repairing and rebuilding table and floor lamps; and wiring antique lamps.

He began collecting coins in 1930 when a friend brought him some pieces from the Orient. An Indian head cent which he found in 1900 is still in his collection, as are some coins which he found in Berlin, Germany, while there on a trip at the age of 10.

Erich joined the American Numismatic Association in 1938, and holds membership No. 6208. He received ANA life membership No. 139 in 1947. His membership number in the CSNA, obtained in 1947, is 30.

Werling is a member of two local clubs and is active in both. He joined the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society in 1936 (No. 23) and the East Bay Coin Club in 1949 (No. 27). He served on the board of governors of both clubs during 1952 and 1953.

He served on the CSNA awards committees at Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa. He won first place awards at Arrowhead Springs, Merced and Los Angeles conventions.

His numismatic library, in keeping with his coins, is general in scope.

At the San Francisco convention, Werling will be in charge of special electrical lighting.

The Formosa dollar is quoted officially at $15.55 to the U.S. $1.

CALCOIN NEWS

Official Publication of the
California State Numismatic Association

Editor.....Charles V. Kappen
2201 Peachtree Lane, San Jose 26, Calif.

OFFICERS

President.....Dr. N. A. Bowers
184 Tuscaloosa Ave., Atherton, Calif.
Vice-President.....Dr. C. Glenn Curtis
418 S. Pomona St., Brea, Calif.
Secretary-Treasurer.....Robert G. McArthur
2419 Humboldt Ave., Oakland 1, Calif.
Librarian-Curator.....Stewart J. Bingham
270 E. San Jose Ave., Claremont, Calif.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leonel C. Panosh, Dr. Calvert L. Emmons,
Herbert M. Bergen, Charles V. Kappen,
Ralph A. Mitchell

CSNA members receive *Calcoin News* without additional cost beyond their annual dues of $2.

Vol. VIII JANUARY, 1954 No. 1

California Club News, Views, and Whos

EAST BAY COIN CLUB, Oakland. —Oleg Maslenikov, associate professor of Slavic languages and literature at the University of California, addressed the club Nov. 13 on "The Ruble of Russia". Professor Maslenikov, a club member, reviewed 900 years of Russian history in a 20-minute talk, illustrating the various periods of history with coins.

One of his coins, issued by Nicholas II, destined to be the last czar, bears the portraits of Michael, first of the Romanovs, and Nicholas II, last of the Romanovs.

The speaker was introduced by Fred Monteagle, vice-president and program chairman.

President Gilbert D. Eaton complimented the 13 guests and 49 members present for their attendance on a very stormy night.

Membership badges are being checked. R. G. McArthur, chairman of the membership committee, reported that 8 or 10 are missing, and requested that those members, whose names were read, return them.

President Eaton addressed the vest-pocket dealers and requested that they extend more courtesy to the chair, the speaker and the auctioneer, by conducting their sales after the meeting and at intermissions.

A. W. Ritchie, librarian, reported that board members are trying to obtain a portable bookcase so that library books can be brought into the clubroom on meeting nights, thereby making the books more accessible to members.

Applications for membership were received from Mr. and Mrs. Delecne E. Cooper, 285 Marshall Dr., Walnut Creek.

Russian coin exhibits: Clifford H. Bloom, platinum 3-rubles of Nicholas I, 1842; Sidney Haas, Siberian 10-kopecks of Catherine II, 2.4 oz. wt.; J.Todorovic, ¼-, ½-, 1-, 2- and 3-kopeck pieces of Nicholas I, 1841-44 series; 5 and 10 kopecks, 1833-35, and silver ruble, 1834.

Other exhibitors were Stanley S. Hawley, A. G. K. Jakobsen, Dennis Olswang, Earl Parker, R. C. Patterson, Walter Ritchie, Arnold Rosing, Al Smith, Don T. Thrall and Tom Twohey. Among coins exhibited by Sidney Haas were an Oaxaca copper "hoe-money" piece of pre-Christian times and a 16th century Chinese temple coin five inches in diameter.

Following a 36-lot auction, conducted by Earl Parker, the meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by Pearl Holm and Erich Werling.

—Thelma Fieberling, Secretary.

* * *

ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB. — Harry S. Davidson was elected president of the Orange County Coin Club for 1954. Other officers elected are Winn Osborne, vice-president; Lowell Wood, treasurer; Herbert M. Bergen, secretary; Dr. C. Glenn Curtis, assistant secretary and librarian; John Haldiman Jr., Dr. C. L. Emmons, Joseph J. Courreges, Hy Spitz and John Stoppelwerth, directors.

To this 185th regular meeting Nov. 24 at Brea, President John Haldiman Jr. welcomed 69 members and guests. Four new members were admitted to the club, bringing the total paid-up membership for the year to 193.

Harry Davidson, program chairman, introduced Harold C. Johns, who gave an interesting and instructive talk on "The Roman Denarius".

Commencing with the first issue of this dime-sized coin in 268 B.C., the speaker supplemented his remarks about this famous coin with notations of the succession of rulers from the time of the Republic through the long period of the Empire, which extended to 476 A.D.

This was another demonstration that every collector of Roman coins becomes a student of Roman history, because the coinage reflected the economic changes of the country.

President Haldiman regretfully announced the deaths of two club members, Dr. H. G. Westphal, Glendale, and Lloyd W. Nelson, Los Angeles. Both have been active, loyal members of the club for many years and their loss will be felt keenly.

Refreshments were served and Joe Steele conducted the auction.

* * *

The 184th regular monthly meeting was held Oct. 27 in Brea. A packed

house of 101 members and guests was present to hear President Haldiman open the meeting.

Vreeland Fraser displayed the beautiful proof coins which were shown by him at the recent convention of the CSNA in Los Angeles and which won for him the first award for U.S. coins.

H. R. Hilton also was on hand to show the exhibit of U.S. coins in colored plastic holders arranged in the form of a U.S. flag. This exhibit attracted as much attention and comment here as it did at the CSNA convention.

Charles Ruby repeated his display of U.S. large cents shown at a recent meeting of the club, this time in new plastic holders.

A report of the CSNA convention held Oct. 23-25 in Los Angeles was given by John Yribarne.

A recommendation by the board of directors that the Orange County Coin Club sponsor the fall convention of the CSNA to be held at the Mission Inn in Riverside was unanimously approved by the membership.

President Haldiman appointed the nominating committee for officers and directors for 1954, consisting of Howard Robinson, Harry Hanson, Dr. V. G. Rich, Hy Spitz and Fred Draper.

Jack Ogilvie, speaker for the evening, was introduced by Karl Brainard. He spoke about his recent experiences in occupied Germany while making a documentary film for the State Department. An important part of this film had to do with the currency reform and the change from the Reich Mark to the new Deutches Mark, or D Mark, which took place in June, 1948.

Probably the most interesting point made by the speaker about the present monetary conditions in European countries this side of the Iron Curtain is the almost total disappearance of gold and silver coins from circulation. Only Switzerland still uses silver coinage to any extent.

The speaker also explained how U.S. gold coins are quoted on the Paris bourse each day, but it is difficult to convert francs back to American dollars; therefore, only a slight profit can be gained from a sale of gold coins.

After this interesting talk, the meeting was recessed for refreshments, followed by the usual auction under direction of the veteran auctioneer, Joe Steele.

—Herb Bergen, Secretary.

* * *

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. — All incumbent officers were re-elected unanimously at the Dec. 16 meeting. They are L. G. Lodge, president; John Ohls, vice-president; Roy Hill, recording secretary; Mrs. Betty Duncan, corresponding secretary; Paul Snedaker, treasurer; H. F. Bowker, librarian; and Ken Allen, Erich Werling and R. C. Patterson, board of governors.

Six visitors and 33 members were present. Of the 39 in attendance, 16 placed and described exhibits:

Harry Barnhill, Clifford Bloom, Al Crites, Bruno Crossfield, Betty Duncan, Rudy Gjurovich, Sidney Haas, Roy Hill, George Hodges, Charles V. Kappen, John Ohls, Earl Parker, David Redfield, Al Smith, Paul Snedaker and Wilbur Wildes.

A raffle netted the ILOW fund $23.

Club topic for the January meeting will be "Asia".

All stood with bowed heads in tribute to Mrs. G. P. Hatch, 81, who died Dec. 14.

* * *

The 453rd meeting of the Society, held Nov. 18 at the Palace Hotel, was attended by 35 members and 16 visitors, 24 of whom exhibited coins! This is believed to be a record.

President Lesley Lodge conducted a brief round of business, concerned primarily with plans for the 14th semi-annual CSNA convention in San Francisco, April 22-25, for which the PCNS is host club.

David Redfield, chairman of the nominating committee, reported that all incumbent officers were nominated for 1954 terms.

Exhibit theme for the evening was coins of England and Its Realm.

Exhibits of British coins: Harry Barnhill, coin and token series of the kings; Clifford Bloom, Canadian gold; Albert Crites, Newfoundland gold; C. R. Godbey, British coins; Rudy Gjurovich, coronation coins of George VI; Roy Hill, Lady Godiva token and model coins of England;

L. G. Lodge, minor coins of Great Britain and Guernsey Isle; Kurt Loret, commemorative medal of Hong Kong on defeat of Germans, 1918.

John E. Ohls, commemorative coins of Britain; Earl A. Parker, crowns and sovereigns of England, modern proof sets and colonial tokens of America under England; David L. Redfield, crowns of Southern Rhodesia and Festival of Britain and British coins of 1953; Arnold Rosing, spade guinea; Paul D. Snedaker, coins and tokens of England and Canada; Thomas Twohey, proofs and patterns of England, 1952 maundy set and a 1902 pattern crown of Edward VII.

Mrs. Harry Cutler exhibited two bracelets or silver ring money pieces called "sulinkis" or skilling, along with the December, 1925, issue of The Numismatist in which an article by Dr. A. M. Rackus carried illustrations of the ring money. These pieces were found in ancient Lithuanian burial grounds and are believed to have existed in copper and silver before the Christian era.

Brantley Eubanks displayed a proof specimen of a Kellogg $50 gold slug of 100 years ago.

Other exhibitors were Mrs. J. A. Ferguson, Arthur Fogelberg, G. P. Hatch, George F. Hodges, Robert C. Patterson, Charles Peters, Steve Short and Al Smith.

Coin collectors are invited to club meetings the last Wednesday of each month at the Palace Hotel. Next one is Jan. 27. —Roy Hill, Secretary.

* * *

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB.—The 65th club meeting was held in the conference room of the municipal auditorium. It was Ladies' Night and 31 persons attended.

Wives of the members were introduced. Edward Monroe was a guest of the club.

Charles Colver displayed a set of $2½ gold pieces.

Type sets of $20, $10, $5, $3, $2½, $1 and commemorative gold pieces and a 1900 type set were shown by W. Gustin.

ANA slides showing famous women on coins and medals were shown.

The usual auction and door prize drawing were held.

—A. B. Coon, Secretary.

* * *

SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.—The 198th regular meeting was held Nov. 2 in the YMCA auditorium, 1115 Eighth Ave., San Diego. President Vigneault presided, with 51 members and guests present. Sid and Ricky Kaufman were welcomed into the Society as new members.

Mrs. Anna Merle Panosh made a fine report on the California State convention in Los Angeles. She said that 28 persons from San Diego attended.

Dr. John Harris presented a colored movie on "Third Dimension".

The following persons had displays: Atwood MacDonald, Arthur Vigneault, Paul Boltz, Ricky Kaufman, Dr. Bruce Wallace, Douglas Fischer, Eugene Johnston, Tom Ward, Francis S. Jones and Alfred Chalfant.

Mr. Chalfant presented a dime board with the name of our Society completely made up of dimes. It was an unusual display.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Hogan served refreshments and the meeting was adjourned.

—Francis S. Jones, Secretary.

* * *

SAN JOSE COIN CLUB.—Austen D. Warburton was elected president for 1954 during the 86th club meeting Dec. 7. Other officers elected are George F. Hodges, vice-president; William Weber, secretary; Vincent Guarnera, treasurer; and George Kohl and E. C. Merritt, board of governors. The office of librarian-historian will be filled at the January meeting.

In the absence of both president and vice-president, Prof. C. V. Kappen opened the meeting and conducted the election.

One new member, Beverly Gayle Smith, San Jose, was introduced. Arthur Plyler, an old member, and Frank Powell of Portland and San Diego, a visitor, were welcomed. Twenty members and guests attended the meeting.

Excellent short talks on their exhibits were made by Roy Hill, Austen Warburton and Frank Powell. Hill displayed Finnish coins; Powell, Carson City mint dollars; and President

(Continued on Page Eleven)

Swedish Plate Money

By EVERETT S. OSTROM, *Kingsburg*

Legal copper coins were first minted in Sweden in 1624. While copper coins were struck prior to that date, for example John III 2 ore 1573, they were when minted given a very thin coat of silver plating and issued as silver coins.

This copper coinage was started by the great lack of silver which prevailed in the country because of the considerable quantities of minted silver required for the liquidation of a debt to Denmark. Sweden was bound by the treaty of Knared to pay war damages to Denmark to the amount of a million riksdalers specie, within a period of six years. As a pledge, Denmark took over the Fortress of Alvsborg together with several towns, including the town now known as Gottenberg, the seaport town of all Atlantic travel. What this meant to the Swedish government can best be understood by a comparison of the value of goods in those days. For a riksdaler, one could buy 26 pounds of butter or four bushels of rye, or for three riksdalers, a full grown ox.

King Gustavus Adolphus called the payment of this debt "the consuming career of the country" and when it was finally paid in full the country was exhausted of silver to such a degree that even the table silver of the king had to be sent to the mint.

½ Daler, Carl XII, 1715. Carl XII ruled 1697-1718. Actual size of coin about 4 by 3½ inches. "½ Daler" means ½ dollar on silver standard. "S. M." stands for "silver money". The corners are "klipped" to get the correct weight.

At the same time the silver was thus exported to pay this debt, the silver mines began to make less money for the realm. On the other hand, the copper mine at Falun became of an increasing importance as a means of finance.

Royal order stopped all export of black copper by private persons, except by payment of a tax, which became a remunerative source of income.

All this formed the background for the commencement of the copper coinage in Sweden:

The country suffered from want of silver.

An increase in coinage of silver would have increased purchases abroad.

King would have had to reduce the standard of silver currency, resulting in sudden rise of market prices.

Solution lay in copper coinage.

There was an abundance of copper in the country.

The copper mine at Falun supplied an essential part of the world requirements.

Swedish copper had a very great influence on world copper prices.

Remember also, except for smallest coins, the so-called billon silver coins, all coinage in those days had to be of full value. Each piece of money was deemed, therefore, to contain metal in value corresponding to the face value, regardless of the metal used.

Under such circumstances, the idea of substituting copper for the main currency was not farfetched.

In the year 1644 the idea of the main monetary denomination in copper was realized by the manufacture at Avesta of the first piece of plate money of the value of 10 Swedish dalers. This lasted one year and stopped. Then in 1649 coinage was resumed, the highest being only 8 dalers and 4, 2 and 1 dalers. This

continued without any long break until 1759 which is the last date met with on plate money although the coinage was continued until 1776 with the use of dies of earlier years.

This plate money forms a type of coinage of highest interest and is peculiar to Sweden. Only Russia imitated this type of coinage during the reign of Catherine, 1725-1727. Plate-money of the denomination of 1 rouble, ½ rouble and 10 copecks were made with only the 10 copecks being put into circulation.

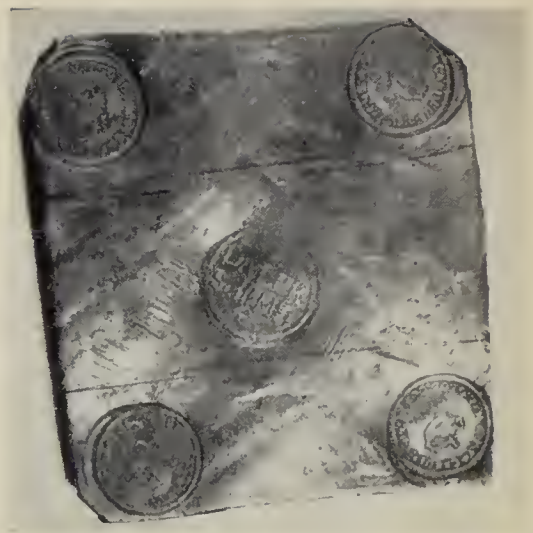
In the royal Danish Coin Collection there is also a 1 Mark plate-money dated 1714 issued by Frederick IV, but no information regarding its manufacture or authenticity has been printed that I know of at this time.

To return to the Swedish plate money, foreign numismatists very often class it as money of necessity.

The only Swedish plate money which can be really counted as money of necessity is that coined in Wismar in 1715, made of gun metal owing to the scarcity of currency in the town during the siege of that year. All other Swedish plate money is ordinary current money and, as already explained, not in any sense money of necessity, but the natural consequence of the peculiar circumstances as to the supply of different kinds of metals, which prevailed in Sweden during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The plate money piece of 1644 of the value of 10 Swedish dalers is undoubtedly the biggest and heaviest coin ever issued. Its dimensions are 70x30 cm. and weight, 19.71 kilogs. This issue consisted of 27,000 pieces. Most of them probably never were put into circulation, but were used successively for manufacture of other copper coins. Only three known specimens of this Queen Christina 10-daler plate money are known to exist.

During the year 1718 a recoinage of plate money took place to a very great extent. As the information of this recoinage found in numismatic literature is somewhat scanty, and above all, gives an unsatisfactory explanation of its purpose, I will try to give a correct account of the recoinage itself as well as of the circumstances bound up with it. Toward the end of the year 1717, special measures were considered necessary



1 Daler, Carl XI, 1663. Carl XI ruled 1660-1697. Actual size of coin about 6 by 6½ inches. No more than four coins are known of this extremely rare daler. "Sollf : Mvt" means "silver mint" or "silver standard". The information stamped in each corner, translated, means "Carl King of Sweden, Gotland and Vanland". The two lines appearing on the illustration are wires which the photographer used to hold the coin in place.

in order to recall to the Crown Treasury such full copper money as was calculated still to remain in the country, and at the same time to further the putting into circulation of the new money of necessity, the so-called "1 daler silver money" tokens.

For such purpose, a rescript was issued on Dec. 5, 1717, prescribing that the value of all copper money, both plate money and other, of earlier as well as of later date, after March 1, 1718, should be reduced by a third. A new order, however, called for delivery to any public office, and the owner was to receive its full value in exchange in tokens or notes.

All plate money thus withdrawn as well as that already in offices of the Crown or in a bank was to be exempt from depreciation and in order to indicate this, should be provided with an impression on the obverse, containing the arms of Gotland which is a lion upon three streams or streamers in a shield, dividing the date 1718.

People manifested little interest to exchange good money for tokens and evidently preferred to submit to the depreciation of the plate money.

Therefore, the Crown issued an order that a new stamp would have to be placed on the reverse of the plate money. This new stamp was Three Crowns, the Coat of Arms of Svealand.

All these frequently repeated alterations of the value in general circulation of a currency, whose real value only depended upon the copper price of the day, contributed largely to the confusion of monetary affairs in Sweden. A confusion enhanced by the monetary policy followed in the last years of the reign of Charles XII on the advice of Baron de Gortz.

By the so-called Monetary Realization Law of November, 1776, plate money ceased to be legal currency in general circulation. With rising prices of goods and falling monetary value, the inconvenience of the plate money became more and more obvious. The silver coinage of the preceding years of the reign of Gustavus III, on the other hand, had been very extensive, and in addition, paper money since the middle of the 18th Century had come into more general use. Plate money had certainly disappeared from daily circulation long before it ceased to be legally current and lay in the strong rooms of the bank—like gold in our day—as cover for an issue of paper money or as a security for drafts.

The difficulties that arose owing to the fluctuations of the copper prices probably contributed also to the suppression of plate money. Sweden was no longer the principal copper-producing country in the world, nor could she influence the price of copper on the world market. As intercourse between countries and continents became easier, variations in supply and demand for copper caused frequent fluctuations in copper prices, and as it was impossible to allow the rates of exchange of the copper currency to follow all these fluctuations, the usefulness of copper as a monetary metal came to an end, insofar as its use as full value money, or so-called main currency.

These circumstances perhaps also throw some light upon another strange feature of Swedish coinage at the end of the 18th Century, namely, the total suspension of all copper coinage in Sweden during the period 1779-1801, although at that time a very great need of small money prevailed. The fact was so little understood that small subsidiary coins did not need to be of full intrinsic value, that copper as a monetary medium was considered as definitely played out.

If anyone should wish the dates of issue under each ruler, relative rarity, values minted and mints issuing gold, silver, copper, and copper plate money for the period of 1624-1759, I will be glad to be of any assistance possible.

That U.S. $1 Bill

Have you ever examined closely a U.S. $1 bill?

The Great Pyramid of Gizeh, with an eye at top, makes up one side of the Great Seal of the United States.

There are 13 tiers of masonry in structure; 13 letters in the motto, "Annuit Coeptis", which means "He prospers our undertakings"; 13 leaves in the olive branch in the eagle's right talon; 13 stars in the "Glory Cloud"; 13 stripes in the shield; 13 letters in the motto, "E Pluribus Unum".

There are 13 original American colonies; 13 original tribes of Israel.

Does this indicate any connection between the United States and the ancient land of Egypt, home of the pyramid?

—Paul Miller,
Eureka Springs, Ark.

MORE ON

San Jose Coin Club

(Continued from Page Eight)

Warburton, his find in the High Sierras of Indian trade beads. These were of Russian, Spanish and Yankee origin.

Professor Kappen conducted an auction of 32 lots.

All who can attend are welcome to our next meeting Jan. 4. See you then, for we're going to have "MORE in '54". —William R. Weber,
Secretary.

The State of New Hampshire recently amended its constitution, removing a clause providing that money "shall be computed in shillings and pence".

History of San Francisco Mint

By ROY HILL, *San Francisco*

San Francisco, in its second century as a commercial center but young as most other large cities reckon their histories, this year celebrates another centennial. The famous San Francisco mint began operations April 3, 1854.

The "S" mint is second only to the U.S. mint at Philadelphia in continuous activity. The U.S. assay office in New York City attains centenarian status in October, 1954.

The celebrated discovery of gold at Coloma (Sutter's Mill) by John Marshall Jan. 24, 1848, gave impetus to the movement of money-hungry gold seekers to California, but this was not the first gold found in the state.

At the Wells Fargo history room in San Francisco is a recently certified copy of a letter from the U.S. mint at Philadelphia written by Edwin H. Dressel, until recently superintendent there, pertaining to a ledger of "gold bullion deposited 1836-1840", showing an entry from California by Hussey and Mackey Jan. 30, 1838.

The first United States branch mint in California, built in San Francisco in 1853. Located on Commercial St. between Montgomery and Kearny, it operated there April 3, 1854, to November, 1874.

By the time news of the fabulous finds at Coloma and other places was made known throughout a country not yet in possession of a rapid communication system, and the trek of the '49ers was on, California in mid-1848 was in need of coin and that need was being noised about.

In Vol. 3, No. 7 of an early newspaper, "The Californian" (Sept. 16, 1848), a resolution was printed reciting the great need and asking for action.

Word of the situation reached the White House where it struck a responsive ear, for President Fillmore, in his first message to Congress (2nd session, 31st Congress) Dec. 2, 1850, recommended that a branch mint be established in California to meet the need there. The House ways and means committee got an estimate for $250,000 in the first session of the 32nd Congress and a San Francisco firm bid $876,000.

The California state legislature, in session at Sacramento April 9, 1852, passed a resolution asking that a mint be established in San Francisco. This was signed by Governor John Bigler and was transmitted to Washington via Secretary of State William V. Voorhies. It arrived there June 8, 1852.

By that time a bill already was well under way, and with but few changes in it, was enacted by Congress. This Act of July 3, 1852, authorized a U.S. branch mint in California. The mint was located in San Francisco as the center best suited as a focal point for trade.

This mushrooming city had need of coin, for use of gold dust or nuggets as rough measures of payment was of unequal result. Gold dust was taken in pinches and merchants with large fingers took more gold in a pinch than others.

Tiding over the coin shortage until the mint was ready for production were private gold coins, "slugs", and foreign silver coins of sizes approxi-

mating our U.S. silver quarter, half dollar and dollar.

California gold was "troublesome" to the U.S. mint at Philadelphia, where it was found to be "loaded" with silver — argentiferous. Until the first gold shipments from California in 1848, Philadelphia had been used to handling only about $100,000 a month in gold to be refined, but found itself deluged by $4,600,000 worth from California alone in December, 1850.

This was only the beginning, for during 1852, gold to the U.S. mint at Philadelphia from California totaled $53,794,700, while all other sources turned in a paltry $712,263.

The California gold had more silver in it than was permitted by law to be alloyed with gold for coins. The double problem of quantity, plus need for the extracting of excess silver, may have helped California get its mint so soon.

The original building was on the north side (No. 144) of Commercial St., between Montgomery and Kearny. San Francisco's waterfront changed rapidly near that area in the early '50s as wharfs along which ships were abandoned soon were developed as part of filled-in land. Thus, the waterfront "moved" eastward.

Commercial St. was the land extension to the west of what used to be Central Wharf. The filling in of Central Wharf and its area permitted Commercial St. to lengthen eastward; therefore, what used to be No. 144 is today numbered 608-610 Commercial St., site of the original "S" mint.

The general appropriation bill passed by Congress late in 1852 provided $300,000 for a mint building in San Francisco. Construction was begun by remodeling and enlarging to 60 square feet the 40 by 60 foot building of Perry and Ward at 144 Commercial St. This firm was successor to Curtis, Perry and Ward, who in turn succeeded the private minting firm of Moffat and Co., which was dissolved Feb. 16, 1852.

The Society of California Pioneers, which shares a permanent headquarters with the California Historical Society at 456 McAllister St., San Francisco, has some interesting original letters by John C. Hewston Jr., describing early mint problems.

ROY HILL, the writer, stands by the plaque at 608-610 Commercial St., which marks the site of the original U.S. branch mint at San Francisco.

These letters they published in their yearly volume for 1952.

Hewston's letters from San Francisco are dated from Nov. 10, 1853, to April 20, 1857. They were written to his close friend and Philadelphia mint colleague, James C. Booth. For 10 years, Hewston was melter and refiner at the Philadelphia mint before being sent to San Francisco by President Pierce to set up the mint.

Hewston told how he arrived in San Francisco 27 days out of New York, via the Isthmus. When he got here, the ship, "Trade Wind", which left New York Aug. 3 via the Horn with machinery for the mint, was not expected to arrive until Dec. 12, or 120 days out of New York. It finally arrived and machinery was unloaded Dec. 12.

His next letter, dated Dec. 30, tells of another ship, "Southern Cross", which was carrying all the window frames, shutters, lead, etc., and was still 145 days out, although it had left New York a day ahead of the "Trade Wind".

Conditions in San Francisco were not too comfortable and communication was very slow. Letters out of San Francisco on the first and sixteenth of each month arrived in New

York about the first and sixteenth of the following month. Letters out of New York on the fifth and twentieth of the month arrived in San Francisco on about the same dates of the next month. A quick reply to New York mail was impossible, for mail to New York had left just ahead of the incoming mail-laden ship.

Cost of living was high. Before Hewston got settled in a boarding house for $25 to $30 a week, he was paying out $8 a day, with washing $3 a dozen extra.

Remodeling difficulties were encountered. Even the basement turned out to be three feet higher than the six feet planned, for the street level was off that much. Stacks were found to take care of but two of the three boilers, so that another had to be provided.

All that is left today of this historic building are the thick brick basement walls and an original vault. At this vault, Ted Malone aired his radio program, "Between the Bookends" in a salute to Bret Harte about 13 years ago. Harte had worked at the mint 1865-69.

The mint opened its doors for public business April 3, 1854. An account which appeared April 4, 1854, in the "Alta California" newspaper stated that 3206½ ounces of gold dust, estimated to be worth $57,000, was deposited and that a good part of that was melted and refined.

Oddly enough, no coins were struck on opening day, even as an opening day ceremony or demonstration.

The mint would assay dust and run it into bars or coin it, as depositors desired. Bars issued by the mint bore a government stamp certifying its fineness or value.

Gold was issued by the mint in three forms; as unrefined bars, refined bars or coin. Unrefined bars were those of metal as originally brought in. They merely were assayed to determine the value, for which there was a charge of one-half of one per cent. Refined bars were of pure gold and the charge was six-tenths of one per cent.

California gold in the raw contained much silver, and since mint regulations required that on deposits wherein the silver value was more than $5, same was to be paid the depositor; he would, however, be charged the refining fee of six-tenths of one per cent.

It was figured that there was about $5 in silver in each 156 ounces of California gold, so that on deposits of more than 156 ounces, the foregoing procedure applied. If less than 156 ounces, the depositor got no payment for silver content, as this was retained in lieu of refining fee. For deposits to be coined, there was a charge of one-half of one per cent, added to any refining fee.

Gold was reported found on the Russian River in April, 1854, and a new rush began. Sonoma Creek, to the north of San Francisco, also had gold finds in 1850 and 1851. Other gold discoveries dotted the face of California outside its mother lode area.

The exact day on which the first "S" mint coin was struck isn't related in the "Daily Alta California", although on April 9, 1854, this item appeared:

"THE MINT. — No coining has as yet been done in the mint. All the machinery and arrangement are now in readiness, however, to commence coining in the early part of this week. The coinage of the first few days will probably be much sought for, and many of the pieces kept as remembrances."

Another article on April 14, 1854, reads: "THE MINT. — Up to the 12th, there had been deposited of gold dust at the mint for

COIN	
9350½ ounces	$168,470.00
UNREFINED BARS	
9177 ounces	165,186.00
REFINED BARS	
67½ ounces	1,206.00
Total for Nine Days	
18,604 ounces	$334,872.00
Daily Average	$ 37,208.00

Not all of California's gold was kept here following the mint's opening. Three ships which left San Francisco May 1, 1854, carried a gold cargo valued at $2,466,688.

(To Be Continued)

It is said that years ago, nails were used as money in Scotland. That is why nails are classified as sixpenny, eightpenny, etc.

* * *

"Coins grow dear as they grow old."
Alexander Pope.

Convention Facts and Figures

LOS ANGELES, OCT. 22-25, 1953

RECEIPTS:

Registration (and extra tickets)	$1267.00	
Dealers' bourse	300.00	
Exhibit cases	18.00	
Drawing (net)	28.00	
Total Receipts		$1613.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Hotel (banquet and luncheon)	$ 968.92	
Police protection (estimated)	160.00	
Music and entertainment	52.00	
Transporting cases	49.15	
Printing and mailing	61.05	
Ribbons and badges	42.43	
Miscellaneous	16.64	
Total Disbursements		$1350.19
PROFIT TO THE ASSOCIATION		262.81

REGISTRATION FIGURES

Members	133	Full registrations	114
Guests	70	Dinner and badge	37
		Lunch and badge	2
Total registration	203	Badge only	47
		Tickets only (no badge)	3
Attendance at banquet	172	Extra banquet tickets	21
Attendance at luncheon	110	Extra lunch tickets	4

REGISTRATION BY CITIES

Los Angeles	36	Inglewood	2	La Verne	1
San Diego	21	Kingsburg	2	Lomita	1
Oakland	19	La Canada	2	Manhattan Beach	1
San Francisco	13	Lockeford	2	Monterey Park	1
Alhambra	5	Merced	2	National City	1
Long Beach	5	Ontario	2	Norwalk	1
Santa Barbara	5	Redlands	2	San Jose	1
Beverly Hills	4	Riverside	2	San Marino	1
Daly City	4	San Luis Obispo	2	Santa Maria	1
North Hollywood	4	Santa Ana	2	Southgate	1
San Bernardino	4	Santa Monica	2	Taft	1
Hollywood	3	Vista	2	Temple City	1
Pasadena	3	Artesia	1	Upland	1
Atherton	2	Bakersfield	1	OUT-OF-STATE	
Azusa	2	Balboa Island	1	Tucson, Ariz.	4
Berkeley	2	Burbank	1	Chicago, Ill.	3
Claremont	2	Emeryville	1	Chehalis, Wash.	2
El Cajon	2	Fallbrook	1	Salt Lake City	2
Fullerton	2	Fresno	1	Fallon, Nev.	1
Glendale	2	Hanford	1	Reno, Nev.	1
Huntington Park	2	Lafayette	1	Racine, Wis.	1

R. G. McArthur, Secretary.

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

588 SCHNEIDER, Edward.....c/o Anglo California National Bank, No. 1 Sansome St., San Francisco, Calif.
589 WEST, John Amos.....101 N. Hill St., Apt. 5, Pasadena, Calif.

RESIGNED

62 HECHT, Jack.....523 Corbitt Dr., Burlingame, Calif.
384 WARNER, Bernard L. .....225 S. Reeves Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif.

DECEASED

55 WESTPHAL, Dr. Henry G. .....740 Kenneth Rd., Glendale 2, Calif.

ADDRESS CHANGES

543 BASSETTI, Del.....680 Foothill, San Luis Obispo, Calif.
437 GUSTIN, Nelson D. .....49 Hawthorne Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
409 LONG BEACH COIN CLUB.....James E. Heavener Jr., Secretary, 944 Daisy Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
203 SPECK, M. Forest.....Rt. 5, Box 944, Hanford, Calif.
142 UTZ, Jack.....604 Fourth St., Orland, Calif.

NOTICE

The annual membership directory will be published in the March issue of **Calcoin News.**

All changes of address should be sent to the secretary by Feb. 5 to be included in the directory.

All local clubs are urged to report the names and addresses of their secretaries on or before Feb. 5.

All members who are delinquent in payment of 1953 dues will be dropped from the membership roster Feb. 1, and their names will not appear in the 1954 directory.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Cash on hand Oct. 19, 1953		$ 292.84
Receipts: 1953 dues	$ 15.00	
1954 dues	254.00	
Calcoin News	200.00	
Los Angeles convention	1613.00	$2082.00
Total Receipts		$2374.84
Disbursements:		
Postage, supplies, etc.	$ 33.36	
Calcoin News	196.14	
Los Angeles convention	1131.79	$1361.29
Cash on hand Dec. 15, 1953		$1013.55

Note: No bill has been received for police protection at the Los Angeles convention. This item, which is listed as an estimated expense in the convention report, remains unpaid.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership as of Oct. 19, 1953		384
Additions: New members	9	9
Total		393
Losses: Resigned	2	
Deceased	1	3
Net membership Dec. 15, 1953		390

R. G. McArthur, Secretary.